(b) the newspaper which has the largest circulation in the country during 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) Statistical information relating to readership of newspapers is not maintained by the Press Registrar. However, Union Territory of Delhi had the largest circulation of newspapers in the year 1983.

(b) The assessment of circulation of newspapers is done on calendar year basis. The figures for the year 1984 are under compilation.

Regularisation of Group 'D' employees in Delhi Doordarshan Kendra and Directorate-General, Doordarshan

1145. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether services of any of the *ad hoc* Group 'D' employees working in Delhi Doordarshan Kendra and the D. G. Doordarshan Office, New Delhi have been regularised and posted against regular 'Group' posts during the last years since the ban on new posts and recruitment was imposed if so, what is the number of such employees;

(b) whether any of such employees have been posted against regular Group 'C' posts, if so, what is the number of employees;

(c) whether it is a fact these posts are exempted from the ban in respect of regularisation of *ad hoc* employees who have worked for more than 240 days in a year; and

(d) what is the programme for regularisation of such *ad hoc* employees against regular existing posts in the said offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) During the last two years the services of two persons, initially engaged on daily wage basis and later appointed on *ad hoc* basis as peons, were regularised in the post of peon in the Directorate General, Doordarshan, on availability of clear vacancies. Similarly, another person initially engaged on daily wage basis and later appointed on an ad hoc basis as peon, has been appointed to a newly created post of Staff Car Driver (Group 'C') on *ad hoc* basis pending regular selection.

(c) The ban orders are not applicable for purpose of regularisation of eligible daily wagers|casual workers. Similarly, the posts created during the operation of ban orders can also be filled up.

(d) The regularisation of eligible daily wage|casual workers depends on availability of suitable vacancies.

Appointment of Presiding Officers of Industrial Tribunals

1146. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Presiding Officers of Industrial Tribunals or Labour Courts to be filled under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 by Central Government which are at present vacant;

(b) the number of such Presiding Officers who are likely to retire within the next one year; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to fill up the posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) 3 (Three).

(b) 2 (Two).

(c) Necessary steps for selection and appointment of Presiding Officers to fill up the vacant posts have already been initiated.

Appointments of Sub-Committee for United Language News Agency

1147. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI S W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting was called by his Ministry and a sub-committee appointed for making a proposal for unified language news agency;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the sub-committee and whether they have submitted any report; and

(c) what are the recommendations made by the committee and Government's action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) to (c) Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting convened a meeting of the leading editors and proprietors of language newspapers for the purpose of obtaining consensus for formation of an Indian language News Agency for dissemination of news in Indian languages on June 25 & 26, 1985. At the outset Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting made it clear that the Government do not propose to start any agency nor do the Government want to get involved in the management or functioning of any agency.

The consensus at the meeting was that there is need for an Indian language news agency to meet the requirements of newspapers in Hindi and other Indian languages. The participants also recognised that there is no possibility of reviving Hindustan Samachar and Samachar Bharati.

The meeting was of the unanimous view that it is for the proprietors and editors of newspapers themselves to operate such a news agency service. The proprietors and editors agreed to examine the possibility of raising resources for setting up a viable news agency service in Indian languages. It was also agreed at the meeting that if it was not considered possible to raise adequate resources to set up a separate Indian Language news agency, an alternative could be for the existing English language news agencies to start services in Indian languages also.

Consequent thereto, a Committee of eminent newspapermen under the Chairmanship of Shri Ramnath Goenka was constituted to examine the various aspects of the matter. The following were the members of the Committee:

1. Shri Ramnath Goenka *(Convenor)*
2. Shri N. Narendra
3. Shri Ramesh Chandra
4. Shri Narendra Mohan
5. Shri P. Mohapatra
6. Shri Somasundaram
7. S. M. Aggarwal

The Committee has submitted its report. The following are its specific recommendations:—

(i) The creation of a fullfledged news agency with adequate techno-